

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

The following listing reflects amendments to the claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of generating a cell comprising a stably replicating HCV sub-genomic viral replicon, said method comprising:

a) disabling a host anti-viral response factor in said cell, wherein said host anti-viral response factor is PKR activity, and

b) introducing said sub-genomic viral replicon into said cell.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 1 wherein PKR activity in said cell is disabled by expressing a dominant-negative PKR.

5.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A method of generating a cell comprising a stably replicating HCV sub-genomic viral replicon, said method comprising introducing said sub-genomic viral replicon into a cell wherein PKR activity has been disabled.

28. (Currently amended) A cell produced by the method of ~~any of~~ claims 1, ~~2~~ or 27.

29. (Currently amended) A cell comprising a replicating HCV sub-genomic viral replicon wherein said cell is PKR deficient.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) The cell of claim ~~30~~ 29 wherein the HCV sub-genomic replicon comprises all of the non-structural HCV genes and none of the structural HCV genes.

32-39. (Cancelled)